GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUES FROM VAISHALI
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The details of antiques discovered during the excavation of the historical and ancient place Vaishali so far;

(b) The period when excavation work was undertaken by British and later on by Indian historians and the names of the museums where these antiques have been kept; and

(c) The present status of the decision to keep the antiques discovered from Vaishali itself after establishing a museum there and the time by which the action to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) & (b) A statement is attached.
(c) Selected antiquities are already on display in the site museum of the Archaeological Survey of India at Vaishali.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2863 TO BE REPLIED ON 09.08.2001

(a) The antiquities discovered during excavations of historical and ancient place of Vaishali District Vaishali (Bihar) cover the Early Historical (6th - 2nd centuries B.C.), through the Sunga (2nd - Ist centuries B.C.); the Kushana (Ist - 3rd centuries A.D.), the Gupta 4th - 5th centuries A.D.) upto the Later Guptas (6th - 7th centuries A.D.); and the materials comprise structures, stupas, monasteries, fortifications, foundations of assorted buildings, ancient abhisheka-pushkarini as well as antiquities such as coins ranging from the punch marked and cast to those of Muslim rulers; seals and sealings; terracotta human and animal figurines, toy cart, beads, pendants, balls, dabbers, moulds, skin rubbers; beads of semi-precious stones; copper and iron objects and potteries of different periods in addition to the relic casket from the relic stupa and gold ornaments.

(b) The regular excavation at Raja Bisal-ka-Garh in Vaishali was started in 1903-04 by Bloch and continued by Spooner in 1913-14, while further work was taken up intermittently at various places of ancient Vaishali successively by Shri Krishna Deva and V. Mishra in 1950, A.S. Altekar and Sita Ram Rai from 1957-58 to 1958-59, Sita Ram Rai from 1959-60 to 1961-62, V. Mishra in 1976-77, K.P. Gupta in 1976-77 & 1977-78, Lal Chand Singh from 1989-90 to 1996-97 and K.K. Mohammad in 1997-98 to 1998-99. The excavated objects as per the available information are kept in the Patna Museum at Patna, the State Museum at Gaya, the Ram Chandra Sahi Museum at Muzaffarpur, the Narad Museum at Nawada, the Chapra Sangrahalaya, and also in the Site Museum of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at Vaishali.